



the **RARA RAG**

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DECEMBER 2004

NO.4

Annual December RaRa/KARC Meeting: Optical Processing of RF Signals

John M. Gilly W3OAB/2

By now we are all familiar with the promise and fulfillment of optical communications. There are fibers everywhere and light is carrying an ever increasing amount of communications traffic because of its enormous bandwidth. In addition, we've been hearing about the field of optical computing and how the future will bring such devices.....desktop devices doing math with beams of light. At the combined December RaRa/KARC Meeting, I will present a very basic demonstration of the "Optical Processing of RF Signals". We will explore the rudiments of constructing an RF Spectrum Analyzer with nothing more than a crystal and a laser beam. There will be an actual demonstration of functional hardware and plenty of gizmos to pass around the audience.

[Editor's note: As always, the combined RaRa/KARC meeting will be held at Kodak's Theater on the Ridge. Parking arrangements will be different this year, so check the announcement on the RaRa website for details. - LW.] www.rochesterham.org

RaRa MEETING

December 3, 2004

7:30 PM

Building 28 Kodak Park

**(Theater-on-the-Ridge corner of
Palm St. & Ridge Rd West)**

Optical Processing of RF Signals

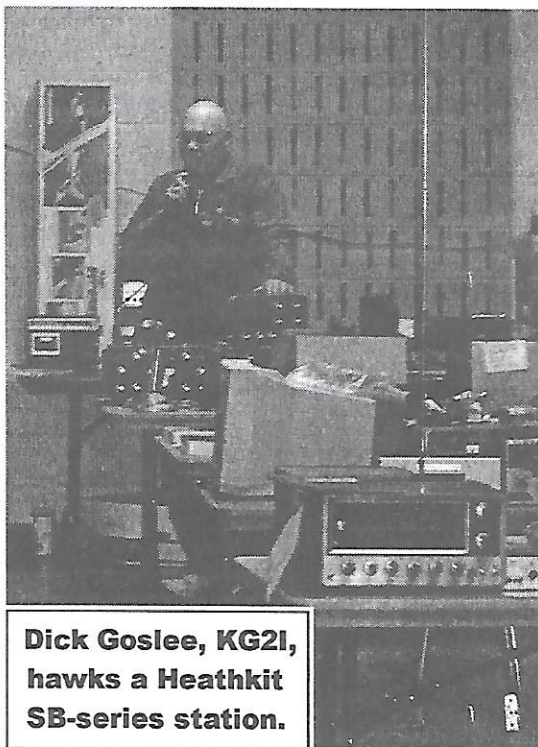
Presented by

John M. Gilly W3OAB/2

RaRa 2004 Auction a Success

Larry Wallnau W2ZEY

RaRa held its annual auction at the November 5th general membership meeting. Ed Gable, K2MP, and Dick Goslee, KG2I, were the tag-team auctioneers for a standing room only crowd. As last year, there were some fine pieces of equipment, some great deals, and yes, some oddities. And as you would expect, Ed and Dick traded one-liners (and two-liners) to keep us all chuckling. From sales commissions and donations, the RaRa take topped \$1800. Many of the best deals were obtained between 2300 - 0000 EST



**Dick Goslee, KG2I,
hawks a Heathkit
SB-series station.**

The first bids set the tone of the auction. Dick presented a Heathkit SB-series station, including the transmitter, receiver, monitor scope, a bug and a straight key.

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RARA RAG 2

Prez Sez...

Brad Armstrong, W1YX. President

During the last few months while we were without a Vice President, I did the work of both the President and the Vice President. Before I became President I'd have thought that would be pretty easy, but I have to say that much of what the President does in order to keep the club running smoothly is quite behind-the-scenes. I have new-found respect for those who have gone before me in this office. So, the good news for both me and the club is that Tim Magee, WB2KAO, has officially been affirmed by the Board as VP. I can now better concentrate on the many tasks of the President. Tim has already proven capable of and well-motivated to do the duties of the VP. In conversation with him during the last few weeks I am pleased by his finds for presenters for the rest of the year. In my opinion, it is these presentations at the general membership meetings, along with the chance to make some worthwhile eyeball QSO's, that really make them worth attending. This is going to be another good season for exploration and camaraderie so don't miss a single one!

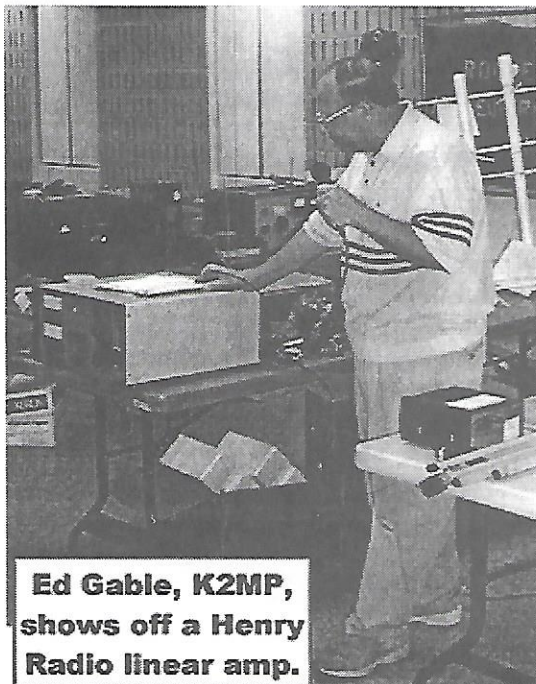
I have reason to believe that there is quite a bit of exciting discussion elsewhere in this newsletter about the happenings at the annual auction but I must mention that there is good reason for the excitement: I have word that the club's share of the auction profits was a new record! We earned over \$1800, with \$125 of that set aside for the Education Fund and \$30 earmarked for the Scholarship Fund. My thanks, on behalf of the club, to those individuals and estates whose very generous donations pushed the fundraising part of the event to this new level. I also should mention here the efforts of some of our tireless members without which the auction would not be possible -- gentlemen, you know who you are -- thanks guys! I'm already looking forward to next year ...

Donations to the Library Book Fund have slowed right down, so here's another reminder ... please keep the donations coming, so we can purchase additional ARRL library sets to be donated to other local libraries within the Monroe County Library System. Bring your donations to the meeting or send them to the Club Treasurer, George Masny, KA2GPJ, at

CONTINUED PREZ PAGE 4

The gavel was struck on a winning bid of \$150. A Kenwood R1000 general coverage receiver came on the block. This model was made in Japan from 1979 to 1985, and DXing.com estimates a used price of \$320-380. This selective and stable receiver went for a mere \$95. A Henry Radio 2 kilowatt linear was offered. Simply stated, it was massive – about the size of the refrigerator I kept in my college dorm room. Unfortunately, its power supply has an unknown ailment. However, this monster uses two 3-500 finals. The high bidder got it for \$300. What would a comparable new Ameritron cost?

The unusual appeared, too. No foot massagers this year, but how about a set of four new hub caps still in protective plastic bags? They were a first for the RaRa auction, yet would be perfect adornments for your '60 Corvette while you tour what remains of Route 66. There were cameras as well – a very nice Nikon N50 SLR and an equally nice Kodak 2 megapixel digital. Several mystery boxes containing assorted components went for ridiculously low prices. These boxes were a delight for those who homebrew. Even the aluminum chassis in one box were new and still covered in brown wrap. Anyone need to borrow my Greenlee punches? Another box contained an enormous quantity and assortment of receiving tubes. The winning bid made it a give-AWA



**Ed Gable, K2MP,
shows off a Henry
Radio linear amp.**

Many folks got great deals on antenna equipment. A new N2UIO 5-element 2 meter quad attracted active bidding. It was kindly donated by our friends at the Brockport Amateur Radio Club. One ham got a good deal on a Mosley TA-33 – only \$30 with the requirement that it is picked up in Pittsford. A second one went for \$49. A Larsen magnetic mount, 5/8th wave, 2-meter antenna, went for a small fraction of a new one. And its stainless steel whip was a brand new replacement. Another bidder got two rotators for the paltry sum of \$35, and a nice 2 meter Ringo went to another ham for \$18. Folks got good deals on HTs, power supplies, and working test equipment.

A 10-foot section of a steel Rohn tower was strewn across the length of two tables. It was the bottom swing section of a 60-foot tower. The condition of this sale was that the winning bidder had to haul the sections from their storage area. Oh yeah, the tower included a rotator with controller, and a set of guys. The buyer of one of the TA-33 Mosleys is now the proud owner of a looming Rohn for \$135. Now where can you get a deal like that on a tower? There was a sentimental piece of equipment on display for radio enthusiasts who like boat anchors. A classic Collins 75A-2 receiver with a matching Collins speaker was certified to be in fine working condition by Ed. This receiver was introduced in the summer of 1950 and covered 160 to 10 meters in 7 bands. The combined weight of the radio and speaker is 65 lbs and together sold for a grand total of \$440 in July 1950 – that's \$6.77 per pound. A previous owner of this unit built a sideband slicer for it, which plugs into an accessory jack and is powered by the receiver. Ed Gable unabashedly admitted that when he first tested the Collins, its S meter was jumping but there was no audio output. He thought about the likely sources of problem, like a tube in the audio amplifier. Before he got too involved in diagnosis, he checked the obvious. The speaker wire had come loose and had to be resoldered. Sometimes the simplest explanation is the best place to start. This great boat anchor drew little interest. It was late and the crowd had thinned out. In the end, a single bid of \$3.08 per pound was accepted for this museum piece.

The Rochester Hamfest Committee and the Awards Chairman donated a brand

CONTINUED AUCTION PAGE 4

CONTINUED FROM AUCTION PAGE 3

new Icom IC-V8 2-meter HT to RaRa for the auction. Needing another HT, and knowing it would benefit the club, I entered the bidding fray. The bidding was brisk. My winning bid was \$125, essentially the typical retail price. However, there were no taxes, no shipping fees, and RaRa benefited. Speaking of donations, many club members donated the proceeds of their sales to RaRa. To these folks, and you know who you are, we thank you. Also, Peter Konnick, WB2EFO, relocated and prior to moving he graciously donated many items to the club. Finally, RaRa is indebted to Dave Stewart, SK, K2ZCD, and to his family who made arrangements for Dave's estate to donate an enormous amount of gear to the auction. We will miss Dave Stewart and we hope his family will find comfort knowing that his generosity to RaRa is indeed a lasting memorial.

RaRa

Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed To Complete
a License Class

Saturday DECEMBER 17, 2004

Contact Cheryl Joyce AB2NU
For any special needs (585-533-9252)

Registration - 8:30 a.m.
Testing - 9:00 a.m.
Room 2150, Building 76
(Park in Lot F)

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SILENT KEYS:

Thomas E. Cordaro KB2GWB

Oct. 26, 2004

Robert F. Lozen, WB5MQR

Oct. 29, 2004 (ex WB2ERE)

CONTINUED FROM PREZ PAGE 1

the club's address: PO Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333. Don't forget to note that the donation is for the Library Book Fund so he'll be sure to receive them. More information on the library sets can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/libbookset.html>

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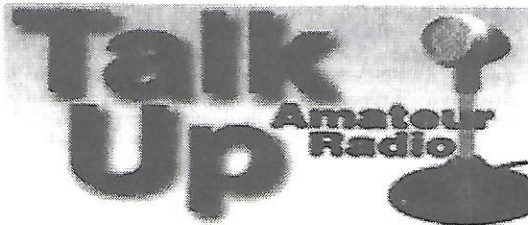
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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, December 1984

Ed Gable K2MP

This month's meeting was the popular joint venture with the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club at Building 28 on Ridge Road West. The program was presented by Bill Peterson, Chief Meteorologist at Channel 13, WORK-TV. Bill, who was introduced by RaRa member and Channel 13 Chief Engineer Bob Erskin, W2NVZ, spoke on the workings of a weather radar system. At this time RaRa had a Social Committee headed by Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF. Dave reported that the first event planned was an indoor/outdoor *Winter Family Funfest* held at Mendon Ponds Park. An additional December event was a RaRa night at the Planetarium. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, wrote an article reflecting on the public service events for the year. There were fifteen events representing over 3,000 man-hours of volunteer service. Ed also mentioned that he would be taking orders for RaRa jackets at this meeting. And still going, N2EH, further reported on the License classes where Ed Gable, K2MP, took over teaching Technician/General theory and Bud Young, WA2UGE, and Russ Foster, NE2B, started teaching the code. The RaRa VE testing team, headed by John Schooley, K2NC, published their monthly testing schedule through June, 1985. The VE contact person for taking an exam was Al DeBlicke, KW2X. Harold Smith, K2HC, Hamfest General Chairman, announced the dates for the 1985 Hamfest and introduced the new Program Chairman George (BUD) Hippisley, K2KIR. The ARRL announced the availability of a just started newsletter devoted to an innovative operating mode called Packet Radio. Sadly, Jerry Fink, W2TTQ, was reported as a silent key. Jerry, a RaRa Life Member and past president, was an active local Ham who ran a Hi-Fi audio and Ham radio store on Clinton Avenue. A continuing advertiser was Robinson Rochester Cycles on West Main Street. From the Want Ads you could buy Collins and National equipment from Don Taylor, KB2BU.

RaRa HOTLINE

(585) 442-0587 24 X 7

DIRECTORY DEADLINE

Richard A. Goslee, KG2I

The deadline for updating the information in the "RaRa Directory" is fast approaching. Check the mailing label on this issue of the RaRa Rag and make sure your name, address and callsign are listed correctly. If there are any errors please let me know as soon as possible. Also if you have two addresses, one for summer and one for winter PLEASE make sure I have both of them. The directory will show both addresses so your friends will know how to reach you at all times.

Corrections and /or additions to the directory can be sent to me by mail at the following address:

Richard A. Goslee, KG2I
24 Elaine Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5306

If it is more convenient you can e-mail me at: rgoslee@rochester.rr.com
The deadline for all corrections is January 4, 2005. Happy New Year.

Ham Display at RMSC - Dec 27-30

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

All ARC's are encouraged to participate in the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Holiday Science and Technology Fair. This is an annual event that runs during the week following Christmas (December 27-30). Area hams supply and operate a special event HF station. We also setup and operate hands-on exhibits that relate to electronics and the radio art. This display gives ham radio a major exposure to key Rochester area youth and parents. View pictures of past years at www.rochesterham.org/RMSCdecShow.htm

We ask that area hams schedule a visit to RMSC and help us for a few hours. Ned Asam, W2NED will lead the HF station and Peter Fournia, W2SKY will lead the hands-on exhibits. Ned can be reached at home (248-0209) and work (422-6448). Peter is at 377-0535. It helps us greatly if you can schedule your visit. The schedule is available on the current events page of the RaRa web site: www.rochesterham.org.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL REPEATERS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Richard A. Goslee, KG2I

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their recent donations to RaRa while they were paying their dues for 2005. Donations were received from:

Steven Verzulli, Richard Smith, Harold Mundy, Carle Porter, Paul Reger, Lia Zwack, Albert Traugott, Frank Lisuzzo, Robert Knox, David Williams, Reynold Grammer, Jr., Michele Dela Sota, Harold Manthey, Jr., Joseph Brown, Jr., Sean Pelletier, David Selbert, Allan Skiles, Larry Wallnau, John Micsak, Fred Lupi, David Crawford, Raymond Dreimiller, Lee Walter, Frances Limuti, Charles Escriva, David Shuey, John Randall, Kevin Carey, David Coons, Charles Vorn-dran, Anthony Scuderi, Roland St.Louis, Donald Peters, Joseph Murano, Michael Vesco, Jack Tripp, William Kelley, Jr., Eric Mellenbacker, Wayne Reinert, George Abbott, Richard Leveque and the many members that donated items to RaRa for the auction.

If anyone else would like to make a "TAX DEDUCTABLE" donation to RaRa, The Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Educational Fund or the Radio Coaches Program just check the appropriate box on your membership renewal and indicate the amount you are sending. If you have already paid your 2004 dues and would now like to make a donation you can send it to P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

Again many thanks; RaRa appreciates your continued support.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Richard A. Goslee, KG2I

RaRa is pleased to announce that the fourth annual Scholarship will be available to a student attending College. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" has been established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF, William Buchan, W2OMV and William Resch, K4VOS. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school

beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RaRa and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years. John McIntyre, KC2JSJ was the 2004 winner of the second Memorial Scholarship which was presented at the Hamfest Banquet last June.

Applications are due no later than April 15th. The RaRa Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee will make a final decision by May 15th of each year. The actual award will be presented at the annual RaRa Hamfest Banquet held shortly thereafter.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa Hotline Phone at 442-0587. Additional information and a copy of the application is available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/>, or from one of the officers.

Additional "tax exempt donations" in memory W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS or any other silent key may be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

Explorers looking for WiFi Consultant

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Explorer Post 621 is searching for people who are very familiar with WiFi, otherwise known as IEEE 802.11. We want to develop a WiFi module for a February 2005 session. About 16 explorers will participate in the session. They are high school level. Post 621 is one of two Explorer Posts that is jointly sponsored by Eastman Kodak, Oteciana Council of BSA, and the Rochester Amateur Radio Association.

We have 5 hams teaching 12 modules during our 12 week program. They are Greg Michels (KC2GXV), Bill Kraft (WB2IHM), Jon Dickason (N2JAC), Bill Hopkins (AA2YV) and Peter Fournia, (W2SKY). Four additional hams will be helping during the hands-on projects that accompany each session.

The intent of the session is to expose our explorers to the WiFi concept. We want to

have a basic presentation on WiFi followed by hands-on demonstrations. We desire to communicate among 4 laptop computers in the ad-hoc mode. We now have 2 laptops with 802.11b cards and can get more. Some explorers will want to build an external antenna to extend the range of their home system. We would like to build antennas with a few explorers during a late February session. Numerous plans for antennas are available on web sites and in ham articles.

So, we are looking for one to three people to consult with or to lead this session. You will be rewarded by the gratitude of the explorers and the instructors. For further information please inquire to Peter Fournia, email: w2sky@amsat.org or telephone 377-0535 in Penfield. A link to the explorer posts is at www.rochesterham.org.

RaRa License Class

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

The September RaRa Amateur Radio License Class began on September 20, 2004 & will end on December 13, 2004 in building 76 room 1235 on the RIT Campus at 7:00 PM, details can be found on the RaRa web site www.rochesterham.org with class exams to be taken at the December 18, 2004 RaRa VE session.

Currently there are 12 students remaining in the license class 5 in the CW/Technician Theory, 4 in the General theory, & 3 in the Extra Theory with 4 weeks remaining in this semester; the next semester will start on February 20, 2005 (timed to take advantage of the scheduled RaRa VE session on May 16, 2005 for Class exams)

AMATUER RADIO LUNCHEON

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

To all who can arrange their schedule? You are welcome to attend the last Friday of the month (Unless it falls on a holiday) luncheon at the Ridge Rd. West Old Country Buffet located In Stone-Ridge Plaza 12:00 noon + or -. The next luncheon December 31, 2004

**NEXT RAG DEADLINE
DECEMBER 13, 2004**

Guess who: Photos out of RaRa's Past



RaRa RAG 7

LET US HELP YOU PATENT YOUR INVENTION

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